

Application No.: 09/822,531
Amendment dated: September 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May, 30, 2003

RD-26589-2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for producing aromatic carbonates which comprises the steps of :

(i) contacting at a temperature sufficient to keep the mixture molten at least one aromatic hydroxy compound with a catalyst composition comprising consisting essentially of the following and any reaction products thereof:

(A) at least one Group 8, 9, or 10 metal or a compound thereof;

(B) at least one tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate, tetraarylbtorate, arylsulfonate, sulfate, nitrate, carboxylate, acetate, benzoate, halide, chloride, or bromide salt with cation selected from the group consisting of guanidinium, ammonium, phosphonium, sulfonium, and alkali metal;

(C) at least one metal co-catalyst; and

(D) optionally, at least one activating solvent;

(ii) optionally heating the mixture at atmospheric pressure to a temperature above that sufficient to keep the mixture molten;

(iii) pressurizing the mixture with carbon monoxide;

(iv) optionally heating the mixture under pressure of carbon monoxide to a temperature above that sufficient to keep the mixture molten;

(v) optionally maintaining the mixture under pressure of carbon monoxide for a time period;

(vi) introducing oxygen to the mixture to a desired concentration of oxygen in carbon monoxide with the proviso that the solvent for the reaction mixture before introduction of oxygen consists of the aromatic hydroxy compound;

(vii) starting gas flow to the mixture at a desired concentration of oxygen and carbon monoxide;